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Statement submitted by Children's Project International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Fifteen years ago, the global community made a commitment to shared progress in the form of the Millennium Development Goals. Since then we have done our part to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals mission with programmes promoting primary education as a fundamental right for all children, medical interventions to combat malaria and water-borne diseases and mobile clinics providing primary care for underserved populations.

But even with the efforts of thousands of individuals working together to achieve the collective dreams of the 193 Member States, the world has fallen short of achieving the goals it set for itself in 2000. As the global community prepares a new set of sustainable development goals, it is important to incorporate the experience of organizations like ours which have been on the front lines of fulfilling the goals as we set the agenda for the next fifteen years. In our experience, measurable goals like ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and sustainable management of water and sanitation are eminently achievable. Our projects sponsor the education of hundreds of girls in India and sub-Saharan Africa. Our Water Sanitation and Health program provides access to clean water for over 3,000 villagers in rural Andhra Pradesh. In creating new goals for sustainable development, the global community must articulate concrete, measurable goals with benchmarks that describe what success will look like.

And for that success to remain sustainable, governments and civil society will need to innovate new ways to work together to achieve the post-2015 agenda. The sustainable development goals framework should encourage cooperation not only in the implementation of development programs, but also establish monitoring mechanisms for government and civil society to evaluate these interventions together. Critically evaluating project effectiveness has always been a hallmark of our partnerships and a key contributor to the sustainability of our programs.

Most importantly, a truly sustainable development agenda must prioritize the rights and well-being of children. All the progress we make today will be for naught if the next generation is not adequately equipped to maintain the world they inherit. This requires a renewed focus on seriously combating child mortality. This also requires additional efforts to provide quality secondary education, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where advances in primary education have not been accompanied by comparable growth in opportunities for secondary education, leading to a post-primary drop-off in enrolment. Ensuring adequate secondary educational opportunities contributes substantially to all the proposed sustainable development goals from inclusive and sustainable economic growth to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

By investing in the world's children, we invest in the world's future.